

June 14, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WT Docket 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

Recent innovation in healthcare technology offers exciting potential to break down some long-standing geographical obstacles to specialized care access. My position as Director of Cardiac/Vascular Service Line at St. Francis Hospital in Topeka, KS affords me unique perspective on this issue.

St. Francis is a regional hospital, drawing patients for specialized care from a 150 mile radius. Many of the patients that come to St. Francis for cardiac care live and work in rural communities. Their follow up care often involves multiple trips to Topeka for rehabilitation and check ups.

Telemedicine innovations can make remote monitoring and virtual check ups a reality. This is beneficial for both providers and patients, allowing for more efficient care. Monitoring the post surgical cardiac patient is just the tip of the iceberg. There are literally thousands of virtual healthcare applications that can and will make a real difference. A robust broadband network is a necessity to make them a reality.

The proposed merger between AT&T and T-Mobile USA will bring access to 4G LTE service to the majority of Kansans, including many who reside in rural areas. Access to a fast and mobile network will help to connect rural Kansas patients and their hometown hospitals with the best care and specialists available.

This opportunity to further connect our state's healthcare system has the power to be transformative. I ask that you join me in support of this merger, and help to make the innovations and benefits of virtual medicine a reality for rural America.

Sincerely,



Christopher Lipp